

A PHOENIX FROM THE ASHES: COMPUTATIONAL FLUID DYNAMICS AT BHPBILLITON TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Formerly part of BHP Research, staff at BHPBilliton Technology have a long history of applying computational fluid dynamics to a wide variety of metallurgical processes. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, BHP Research devoted considerable resources to hardware, software and staff in the area of computational fluid dynamics and had formed one of the largest groups of this type in Australia. However by the mid 1990s, primarily due to the inherent limitations of the computational hardware and software at the time, this large CFD group had been disbanded and the staff and computer hardware were deployed elsewhere. With the continued advance in computational capability over the past decade, CFD is now capable of delivering on its early promise for the minerals industry. As a result, BHPBilliton is now beginning to substantially re-invest in this area, with bright prospects for the future.